

## Chapel of St. Theresa, the Little Flower

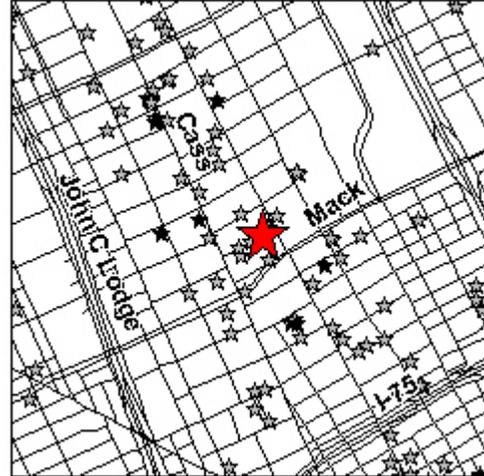
46 Parsons

Local

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46 Parsons

### **Historic overview:**

The Chapel of St. Theresa, the Little Flower is a fine example of the Neo-Romanesque church work of its architects, Donaldson and Meier, who designed a number of Catholic churches in the Detroit area in the boom years of the 1920s. The chapel is one of two surviving buildings; both located on Parsons, which reflect the long history of St. Patrick's Church in Detroit.

St. Patrick's Parish, was opened in 1862, as a response to the need for another parish in an expanding city, in what was considered suburban Detroit. It was built under the direction of Father Hennessey of the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul for the purpose of ministering to that parish's Irish members. Within ten years, St. Patrick's had outgrown its chapel and expanded seating capacity to 1200. By 1880 St. Patrick's became one of Detroit's largest and wealthiest Catholic churches. In 1890, Bishop Foley took over the diocese and it became the Pro-Cathedral of the Roman Catholic Diocese in Detroit, and the name was changed to SS. Peter and Paul. In 1938, St. Patrick's reverted to its original name when Archbishop Mooney named Blessed Sacrament the Pro-Cathedral.

A parish school was built in 1892 some distance away from St. Patrick's, on Parsons. By the 1920s, the walk from the school to the church through the busy streets was considered unsafe, thus leading to the construction of the Chapel of St. Theresa, the Little Flower in 1926. The old St. Patrick's area continued to decline, and by the 1960s, the Chapel of St. Theresa became the site of many of the parish's activities. The old St. Patrick's burned in 1992, leaving The Chapel of St. Theresa, the Little Flower to reflect the long history of this institution.

